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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 37 | Min 24 | Humidity 79% Generally cloudy sky with a few spells of rain Sensex 78,895 | Nifty 22,442 | Gold 72,050 | Silver 82,500 | Dollar 83.48 | Euro 90.06 | GBP 104.78

CITY PAGE 3

STORMY WEATHER

While tree falls are reported across city, Anekal residents fear falling hoardings

POLL FEVER DELIRIUM

Group meets chief electoral officer, urging action against hate speech, fake claims

CITY PAGE 7

Intensive cleaning of city's stormwater drains uncovers bikes, mattresses, household items, prompting officials to urge citizens to watch what they throw

Into the gutter

C&D waste on road side compounds problem, leading to clogging

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There is no guessing what all has ended up being dumped in the city's drains. It's not just the usual suspects such as construction waste that's being dumped to clog the drains, but some citizens are even tossing in old, unused bikes in. These blocked drains hinder the flow of rainwater, leading to flooding in nearby areas.

During an intensive cleaning effort undertaken by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), workers came across various items. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath remarked, "During intensive cleaning, we found items like bikes, mattresses, and household items in stormwater drains. These drains are meant for water to flow freely to lakes, so it's important for people to avoid dumping waste into them. Some individuals have deposited construction materials on roads and footpaths. We have advised against such dumping and instructed officials to identify these spots and take action.

BBMP previously classified thermocol as a type of plastic and discovered it lodged in the drain mesh throughout the city. The agency then established guidelines for thermocol usage and imposed a fine of Rs 100 for unlawfully discarding it. However, this enforcement effort proved inadequate as thermocol dumping has significantly obstructed drain systems.

BBMP attributed this issue to e-commerce, stores, and malls in the city, blaming them for the influx of thermocol waste. The majority of drain blockages are caused by thermocol, compounded by people dumping bags, waste, and debris into stormwater drains

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

BBMP workers have to often clear up clogged drains to ease waterlogging of roads after small spell of rain

"These drains are meant for water to flow freely to lakes, so it's important for people to avoid dumping waste into them. Some individuals have deposited construction materials on roads and footpaths. We have advised against such dumping

— Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP chief commissioner

STAY IN YOUR LANE

AI camera being tested for 6 more violation including wrong-side driving/riding

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Following the success of contactless enforcement of fines over a year, the traffic police are now testing six additional traffic violations. As of now, the system can detect seven traffic violations.

Since 2023, the city traffic police have completely moved to contactless enforcement of traffic rules and fines, especially for these seven violations. Now, tests are being conducted to see if the AI-enabled cameras can detect six more traffic violations. If it goes well, 13 violations will be detected through the cameras.

"We have been conducting tests to add six more traffic violation detection to the cameras since December last year," said a senior traffic official.

According to traffic officials, violations such as footpath and wrong-side riding/driving could soon be detected through cameras.

Explaining the process of detecting wrong-side driving, the traffic official added, "After a dedicated path is input for each road, any vehicle that flows against the path would be considered an anomaly. The AI will be able to detect vehicles driving on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Musical fusion

Spend the weekend filled with captivating rhythms and soul-stirring melodies as Windmills proudly presents an enchanting evening of jazz fusion featuring the internationally acclaimed musician Renaud Garcia Fons. He is known for his mastery of the double bass; you can expect a seamless fusion of styles, reflecting the vibrant tapestry of Parisian life and global travels. Joining him are talented musicians Antonio Ruiz on guitar, Jean-Luc Di Fraja on percussion, and Halili Serkan on the kannun, promising a night of musical excellence that transcends genres. **Where: Windmills Craftworks When: May 10–11, 9:30 pm onwards**

02 Kids' art party

Join in for an exciting art class tailored specifically for kids! The engaging and interactive sessions in this class are designed to ignite your child's imagination and nurture their artistic talents in a fun and supportive environment. Children will explore various art techniques and mediums, including painting, drawing, collage, and more. **Where: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield; When: May 7 to 12**

Pulsar NS400Z launched

Bajaj Auto launched the Pulsar NS400Z on Monday. According to a release, NS400Z has a 373.27cc engine, producing 40 PS and 35 Nm of torque with ride-by-wire technology for precise throttle response and smoother handling. It adapts to different rides with dedicated modes: road, rain, sport, & off-road. It has advanced 43mm USD forks and Ride-by-Wire with smart 4-way switches, ensuring peak performance and control. LED projector headlights with DRLs provide exceptional visibility, complemented by a full suite of LED taillights, blinkers, hazard lights, and Bluetooth connectivity. Dual-channel ABS with combined ABS technology ensures exceptional stopping power and prevents wheel lock-up under various riding conditions. Sarang Kanade, President Motorcycle Business, Bajaj Auto Ltd, said, "The Pulsar NS400Z is priced at Rs 1,85,000 (ex-showroom Delhi) and will be available in four colours: Glossy Racing Red, Brooklyn Black, Pearl Metallic White, and Pewter Grey."

Legit or not? Parents puzzled about authenticity of schools

Uncertainty surrounds admissions as list of unrecognised schools isn't out yet

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The education department initially stated that the list of unrecognised schools would be published by April 25, but as of now, no action has been taken

The admissions process in most private institutions has nearly concluded, yet many parents are in the dark about whether the schools they are considering are recognised or unrecognised. This uncertainty arises as the education department has not yet released the list of unrecognised schools.

Rajesh Kumar, a concerned parent, highlighted the challenge faced by parents in verifying the recognition status of schools. He emphasised that schools often claim to have all the necessary recognition and provide documents, but parents lack the means to verify the authenticity of these documents. Kumar stressed the importance of the education department releasing the list of unauthorised schools publicly by October–November every year, as this would give them ample time to seek alternative schooling options if their child is enrolled in an unrecognised school without disrupting their academic year.

The state has a total of 17,329 private schools, catering to approximately 36.34 lakh students. An earlier report by the education department revealed the existence of 1,695 illegal schools. The education department initially stated that the list of unrecognised schools would be published by April 25, but as of now, no action has been taken.

BangaloreMirror
Menace of illegal schools
Lack of data on illegal schools

BM's issue on April 26 discusses the delay in identifying & announcing the list

An official from the education department reiterated that schools operating without proper registration and permissions will face closure according to 2023–24 guidelines that specify the requirements for starting educational activities and mandate official permission to teach state textbooks in addition to the central curriculum.

In a circular issued by the school education department, private schools were reminded to disclose fee details, follow the prescribed syllabus, maintain the student-teacher ratio, establish a fee fixation authority, and publish complete information about the school. Any violation of these rules would lead to disciplinary action.

Meanwhile, the education department's classification of schools as unrecognised has been disputed by the Karnataka Associated Management of English Medium Schools (KAMS). D Shashi Kumar, KAMS general secretary, argued that out of the identified 1,600 unauthorised schools, 620 have additional sections that are duly notified in the education department's database. Kumar challenged the education department to release a list of truly unrecognised schools to avoid misleading classifications and potential corrupt practices.

Buzz around early start of the academic year

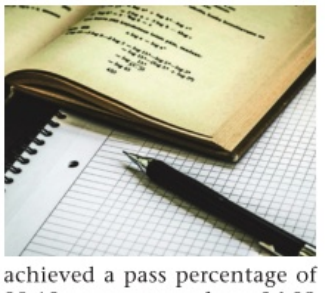
The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has urged the education department to address schools that have commenced classes significantly earlier than scheduled. The committee's letter highlights concerns regarding the potential negative impact on students' physical and mental well-being due to shortened summer holidays. Additionally, parents may face challenges as they are compelled to send their children to school despite potential reservations. K Naganna Gowda, KSCPCR chairman, emphasised that starting schools substantially early also violates the provisions of the RTE Act.

City students shine in ICSE & ISC exams

Bengalauru students scored exceptional marks in the ICSE (class 10) and ISC (class 12) exams. The exam results were announced on Monday. In Class 10, with 99.91 per cent the western region achieved the highest pass percentage, closely followed by the southern region at 99.88 per cent. The southern region also had the highest percentage of girls, with 49.52 per cent appearing for the Class 10 examination. In Class 12, the southern region continued its success with the highest pass percentage of 99.53 per cent, while the western region also performed admirably at 99.32 per cent. Among the girls who appeared for the Class 12 exam, the western region had the highest representation at 50.55 per cent.

This achievement comes amidst a significant change in policy by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). Starting this year, CISCE has decided to discontinue the practice of publishing merit lists for Class 10 and 12 exams. This decision aims to curb unhealthy competition among students, aligning with similar actions taken by the CBSE in the past year.

In terms of overall performance, the pass percentage for Class 10 students stood at an impressive 99.47 per cent, marking an improvement from the previous year's 98.94 percent. Similarly, Class 12 students



achieved a pass percentage of 98.19 per cent, up from 96.93 per cent in the previous year. The ICSE examination for Class 10 included a diverse range of 60 written subjects, comprising 20 Indian languages, 13 foreign languages, and one classical language. On the other hand, the ISC examination for Class 12 consisted of 47 written subjects, including 12 Indian languages, four foreign languages, and two classical languages.

A total of 2,695 schools participated in presenting candidates for the Class 10 exams, with an impressive 82.48 per cent of schools achieving a 100 per cent pass rate. Similarly, for Class 12, 1,366 schools presented candidates, with 66.18 per cent of schools attaining a 100 per cent pass rate. Overall, the number of candidates appearing for the Class 10 exam exceeded 2.43 lakh, while for Class 12, it stood at 99,901. These statistics reflect not only the dedication of students but also the efforts of educators and administrators in ensuring a conducive academic environment despite challenges posed by the pandemic. — **BMB**

Gusty winds take trees down

As pre-monsoon showers lashed various parts of the city on Monday evening, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was flooded with complaints of fallen trees.

According to the Forest Department of BBMP, nearly 30 complaints of trees falling were received on Monday from various parts of the city due to rain and wind.

"We have been flooded with calls of trees falling and blocking roads, damaging houses, etc. We are busy clearing these areas based on complaints raised. We received as many as 26 complaints by Monday evening and this number is expected to rise," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest, BBMP. Some of the areas that reported trees falling included Kaveripura, Banaswadi, Mahalakshmi Layout, Mekhri Circle, Lingarajpura, Rajajinagar, RT Nagar, Kalyan Nagar, and Palace Road.

Storm alert

Just as Karnataka State Natural Disaster Centre (KSNDC) issued a yellow alert for thunderstorms, rain started lashing many parts of the state, including Bengaluru. Some places like Kolar and Anekal witnessed heavy gusty winds and hailstorms too.

Bengaluru Rural and Urban, Chamarajanagara, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Mandya. Mysuru, Ramanagara and Tumakuru that have been issued yellow alerts for thunderstorms.

—BMB and agencies

KAUSHIK JN

In rain or shine

After days of waiting, the heavens have opened and how! Monday was a stormy day, but in the rain and wind, people went about their business, and duty as some relief from heat was welcome

Hoardings: Illegal, ugly and seriously deadly

After 2 huge hoardings came crashing in last week's rain, Anekal residents are on the edge

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KAUSHIK JN

A hoarding that came down last Thursday in Anekal

Areas in the outskirts are yet to recover from last week's gusty wind and rain that Bengaluru experienced. Residents of the Anekal area, in particular, are a worried lot as two big hoardings came crashing down after a few minutes of rain on Thursday. On Monday afternoon, an advertisement board fell on a parked car and the vehicle was completely damaged.

Residents say the area is dotted with illegal hoardings of politicians, businesses, and builders, which has left residents concerned that they might get blown away during the upcoming rainy season. "In the last couple of days, we had strong winds along with rain due to which many of the illegal banners fell. The banner was more than 200 square feet in size. Luckily no one was hurt but it is only a matter of time," said Tushar, a resident of Anekal.

Locals say illegal hoardings on buildings and medians of roads are ubiquitous and have become a big money-making business in the area, backed by political clout.

According to Jagadeesh K, a social activist and a resident of the area, in June last year, four to five hoardings and billboards had come crashing down during heavy wind and rain.

"The area has enormous hoardings abutting small residential complexes and societies. For instance, a billboard over 400 square feet has been put up next to the Keerthana Apartment complex in Chandapura. If it happens to fall toward the residential complex, it will cause a lot of damage to property and lives. With monsoon just around the corner, it is important that these hoardings and billboards are removed as soon as possible," said Jagadeesh.

Aggrieved residents say they have approached many authorities over the last couple of years regarding illegal hoardings and billboards, but there is no respite and they keep mushrooming everywhere.

> **"The hoarding mafia charges more than Rs 2 lakh as monthly rental. We have been fighting this menace for nearly two years now** –Jagadeesh K, activist

According to a resident, one can count nearly 300 hoardings just on the median of the state highway in Anekal.

"This is a business and the hoarding mafia charges more than Rs 2 lakh as monthly rental. We have been fighting this menace for nearly two years now and have approached various government agencies – from local panchayat to the chief secretary of Karnataka. But no one has taken any action so far. Based on our complaints, an inquiry was conducted by the district collector and the report stated that the boards put up in the area are illegal. We also reached out to the chief secretary of Karnataka nearly nine months ago but to no avail. Officials cite lack of time and resources for not acting on our complaints," said Jagadeesh.

Star tortoise rescue: Moving luggage alerts bus conductor

People for Animals (PfA) has rescued 217 endangered star tortoises from the hands of a smuggler after receiving a tip. Interestingly, a bus conductor was responsible for raising the alarm. After noticing movement through the bags of a passenger who had boarded the private bus at Anand Rao Circle on last Tuesday, the conductor questioned him regarding what was inside the luggage. Upon being questioned, the passenger fled the scene, abandoning the luggage. It was then found that the bags had 218 endangered star tortoises. While 217 of them were crawling around, one of them was found dead. These tortoises will now be released at undisclosed locations selected by the Karnataka Forest Department in batches.

The health of each tortoise has been examined to find that they can be released after they each gain 80 grams in weight. After examination, it was found that the largest tortoise among the lot weighed 864 grams and was close to 4-5 years old while the smallest weighed only about 23 grams at one week of age.

The Indian star tortoise, which is listed under Appendix I of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) list and categorised as 'Vulnerable' in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of threatened species, is one of most traded tortoise species not only across the subcontinent but across South and Southeast Asia, leading to a decline in their population.

A recent study on them (Geochelone elegans), distributed across South Asia, revealed that the genetic diversity of the species has suffered losses because of rampant illegal trade. Estimates say that a single star tortoise is worth Rs 10,000 on the international market, putting the entire rescue at a value of Rs 21 lakh. "Our result suggests that about 10% of the area within the IUCN range of the Indian star tortoise is suitable for habitation; however, this area is further subjected to the impacts of human-mediated habitat degradation. Areas within Gujarat and Rajasthan, followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, have the highest levels of habitat fragmentation," the study also noted. —BMB

Pavements and vacant land made dumpsites

BBMP's efforts on Baiyappanahalli Road are marred by trash dumping and unattended greenery

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Thousands of people use Baiyappanahalli Road to reach Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal from Indiranagar, Ulsoor, New Thippasandra, and other areas, and vice versa. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent a lot of money to develop and asphalt Baiyappanahalli Road between the flyover on Banaswadi Road near Mukunda Theatre and Old Madras Road for the benefit of people to reach the destinations without any hassles.

The BBMP has provided footpaths on both sides of the road and a median that has a provision to plant saplings. However, footpaths are being used to dump all types of waste, and the vacant land near Satyanagar is being used not only for dumping and burning garbage but also as an open toilet. It is not that the BBMP Solid Waste Management Department (SWD) is not engaging pourakarmikas to clean the roads and footpaths. They do, but residents and shop owners continue to dump garbage in the open place along the footpath opposite Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, thus causing a nuisance.

"I visited Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal recently. I was shocked to see burning garbage at different locations on Baiyappanahalli Road. The garbage-burning spots have become an eyesore. I want the BBMP SWD to do something to stop the garbage burning. The road and footpaths need to be clean as thousands of people use this road either to enter or exit from Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal," an environmentalist said, on the condition of anonymity.

Heaps of garbage along the footpath on Byappanahalli Road near Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal

Objecting to some people using the vacant space as an open toilet, Naveen P, an auto-rickshaw driver, said the BBMP authorities should take measures to construct a pay-and-use toilet on the vacant site between Satyanagar and Baiyappanahalli. "I am not sure how many of these people use the pay and use toilets but it will reduce the number of people using the vacant site to attend nature's call," said Naveen.

Most of the saplings planted on the median are withered due to a lack of water. The authorities concerned made arrangements for planting saplings and provided tree guards for each of the saplings but failed to take measures for watering these saplings. "It is quite disturbing to come across withered saplings on this road. Nearby shop owners or residents should have looked after these saplings by allocating one mug of water on a daily basis for each of the saplings. I think the BBMP Forest Department has forgotten about these saplings. The authorities spent money and time for planting saplings but what is the use if the saplings are withered due to a lack of water?" asks Dinesh N, an auto-rickshaw driver.

> **"The authorities spent money and time for planting saplings but what is the use if the saplings are withered due to a lack of water?**
> – Dinesh N, an auto-rickshaw driver

Meanwhile, the BBMP Solid Waste Management Junior Health Inspector has assured to look into the matter. "I was transferred to this ward a week ago. I will take measures to keep the footpaths and the road free from garbage. I will also advise people not to burn garbage at the vacant site."

Test on for 6 months with feeds from 7,500 spots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wrong side using this method." However, the official added that in cases where the confidence levels are below 99, human validation is required. "The violations detected by the AI will have to be re-verified by human intervention. Many aspects might be easily discernible by the human eye and not AI," he added.

Tests have been ongoing for the past 4-5 months and utilising the video feed from 7,500 locations. "We need to conduct tests at varied locations and in different scenarios. We are testing in areas prone for high violations, during peak hours, high traffic density corridor, metro corridor, longer U-turns, and other scenarios," he added.

The officials also noted that the current seven violations detected through the cameras have also a tendency to throw some errors. "For example, in case of seat belt violations, if the colour of the vehicle user's clothes and seatbelts are the same, it could incorrectly detect the violation. The camera can even detect partial number plates, human intervention is required for non-standard number plates. In case of completely absent number plates, we need to conduct physical checks and book the cases. The system cannot identify the vehicle in such cases," he added.

The current AI-integrated cameras can detect these violations - speed limit violation, red light violation, stop lane violation, no helmet, triple riding, driving using phones, and driving without seat belts. Of the total of 1,13,71,553 cases registered in 2023-2024, 97.15 per cent of traffic violations were registered through the automated system. The traffic police registered a total of 1,10,48,367 cases in the two years through the automated system. They also collected 48 per cent of the fines through the automated fines with a total of Rs 96,02,11,225 collected under automation fines out of the total fine of Rs 1,99,95,17,835 collected by the traffic police in the two years.

NEET-UG question paper leak allegations baseless: NTA

The National Testing Agency (NTA) clarified on Monday that reports alleging a question paper leak in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam are "completely baseless and without any ground."

Stressing that every question paper has been "accounted for," Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director at NTA, emphasised that purported images of the question paper circulating on social media have no relation to the actual paper.

Parashar further stated that after the gates of the examination centres are closed, no one from outside is permitted access inside the halls, which are under CCTV surveillance.

The entrance exam took place on Sunday at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 cities abroad. While the NTA acknowledged cases of malpractice and impersonation, they took strict action against the involved candidates.

This year, a record over 24 lakh candidates registered for NEET-UG. Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of candidates at 3,39,125, followed by Maharashtra at 2,79,904, and Rajasthan at 1,96,139.

In 2023, a total of 20,87,449 candidates had registered for NEET-UG, with the NTA recording a 97.7 per cent attendance rate in the exam held on May 7. – PTI

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9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage circle

Jai Maruthi Nagara Circle

Debris and garbage have accumulated at the busy junction of five roads in Nandini Layout for the past six months, inconveniencing pedestrians and posing a risk of accidents.

Waste ablaze

KR Pura

Burning garbage in the premises of Gangashetty Lake, behind the BBMP office, has become a common practice for miscreants, while government officials are least bothered to stop or take action.

Attend the trash

Kuvempu Nagar

Dry waste collection is not being carried out in BBMP Ward 11, Kuvempunagar.

'Ruff' situation for stray ends well with citizens' help

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Through the watchful eyes of compassionate animal advocates and the caring residents of 6th Cross, Balaji Nagar, Kodigehalli, a stray dog was rescued from a distressing act of cruelty. The incident occurred when an unidentified auto driver subjected the unsuspecting canine to a series of brutal blows with a belt, resulting in injuries and profound distress.

Eyewitnesses recounted the distressing scene, with the auto driver showing no heed to pleas from bystanders to cease his assault on the defenceless animal. Fortunately, Harish KB, a dedicated member of the Bangalore Urban Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), sprang into action upon receiving an SOS message alerting him to the situation.

Harish said, "I sent an SOS message to the animal lovers in the group and reached the spot. There was a small wound to the dog. I approached The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) commissioner to send the BBMP officials to attend to the case."

With the swift response of Harish, other volunteers, and concerned residents of the area, the dog was promptly provided first aid and safely sheltered from further harm.

Harish reached the spot the same day and stayed through the night to

keep a vigil that nobody harmed the dog. Even a caretaker put the dog inside the house for support, safety, and care. "When I found out about the driver, I was told that earlier as well he had tried attacking a dog. When I got the video of this innocent stray being hit, I was totally shocked. The dog wasn't even trying to attack him. And according to the residents there, he is a very friendly dog. I quickly shared the video with other volunteers to come in to save the dog," said Harish.

The following day Sujaya Jagdish, an activist, Ambika, a dedicated volunteer, and Vikas Bafna, founder of Friends For Animals Trust collaborated with BBMP representatives and questioned the driver who stayed in the next lane.

Over the call, we questioned the driver and wanted to file a complaint against him," Harish revealed. "However, he apologised and agreed to write an apology, demonstrating his understanding of the severity of his actions and his commitment to the well-being of the dog."

The driver's sincere apology, coupled with his pledge to actively prevent any recurrence of cruelty, was met with a sense of forgiveness and reconciliation from the community. "Although we wanted to file an FIR, we did not do it as he was apologetic for his doing and even gave a written apology," said Harish.

He further added, "Thanks to the caring volunteers, the dog now has a better life ahead, without fear or harm. This incident reminds us how important it is to work together and show kindness to animals. Let's remember to treat all living beings with respect and care, and never cause harm to them."

Stench of neglect: Lake turns graveyard for aquatic life

Citizens dismayed as BBMP's maintenance lapses lead to recurring fish deaths and foul odour at Madiwala Lake

Dead fish found floating in Madiwala Lake

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In the last couple of days, Madiwala Lake has witnessed the deaths of many large fish, triggering health concerns among residents and lake walkers. This comes nearly a month after thousands of dead shellfish were washed ashore in the water body. These episodes have led visitors to declare Madiwala a graveyard of aquatic life.

"We went to the lake on Sunday for our weekend getaway and found a lot of dead fish floating on the water's surface. We encountered a similar situation a couple of weeks ago with shellfish. Madiwala looks like a cesspool," said Priyanka Aura, a resident of the area.

According to locals, the unbearable stench has been lingering in the air for nearly a month now. However, the lake has not been well maintained by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) since it was handed over by the Karnataka Forest Department to the civic agency in November last year.

> **"While officials from the BBMP Lake Department cleaned the water body nearly a week after the shellfish incident, the dead shellfish were removed from the lake and dumped near the walkway, inside the lake premises**
>
> –Naveen Reddy, a resident of the area

"There is a foul smell emanating for nearly a month, which began with thousands of shellfish dying. While officials from the Lake Department of BBMP cleaned the water body nearly a week after the shellfish incident, the dead shellfish were removed from the lake and dumped near the walkway, inside the lake premises. That continued to give off a horrid smell for the next one week or ten days. While that stench was just dying down, the fish kill happened on Sunday, making the whole area smell like a graveyard. It is displeasing to go to the lake for a walk or other recreational activities," said Naveen Reddy, another resident of the area.

BangaloreMirror
Thousands of shellfish found dead at Madiwala Lake

BM's report on April 17 reported on the shellfish kill at Madiwala Lake

Officials from the Lake Department told BM, "We received the complaint about dead fish on Sunday. This has happened because the water level in the lake has gone down drastically in the absence of rain. Our staff is currently on election duty. However, we will get the lake cleaned as soon as possible."

In the past, residents have alleged that Madiwala has been deprived of maintenance and its condition is deteriorating with each passing day since it was entrusted with BBMP.

"It has been more than six months since BBMP took over and I have not seen any cleaning activity since then, except one to remove dead shellfish. The lake has to be cleaned regularly else, the bad stench is going to stay. It feels unhygienic to go for a walk," rued another resident.

BBMP too has expressed its inability to maintain the lake in the past, citing a shortage of funds. However, citizens say the civic agency should have declined to take ownership in that case. They opine that common places made for citizens' use cannot be left unattended for months on end citing a shortage of funds.

Revanna's aide remanded

A city court remanded Sathish Babanna, an aide of JD(S) MLA HD Revanna, to eight days of police custody on Monday in connection with the alleged abduction and illegal confinement of a woman.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) produced Babanna before the court, which remanded him to police custody for further investigation into the kidnap case linked to the sexual allegations against JDS MP Prajwal Revanna.

Babanna was arrested based on a complaint from the 20-year-old son of the victim. The man stated that he feared a threat to his mother's life after she was abducted.

According to the complaint, Sathish Babanna took the woman, a mother of three, on a bike, saying there was a possibility that she might be arrested if the police visited her to record her statement.

The victim had appeared in one of the videos in which she was tied and raped by Prajwal Revanna, the complainant added.

Scores of explicit videos surfaced, showing a large number of women allegedly sexually abused by the Hassan MP. —PTI

SIT grills HD Revanna amidst sex scandal probe

The Karnataka CID's SIT continued grilling former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's son, JD(S) MLA HD Revanna, on Monday, even as he refused to sign the statement prepared by the authorities.

The episode has stirred a huge controversy in the state ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Revanna's son, Prajwal Revanna, who is the sitting JD(S) MP and NDA candidate from the Hassan Lok Sabha constituency, is the prime accused in the sex videos case. Prajwal has fled the country, and a Blue Corner notice has been issued against him.

According to sources, HD Revanna, in the custody of SIT, is refusing to sign the statement prepared by the authorities and is claiming that he is being framed in the case. He maintains that he has no connection with the kidnapping of the victim. The SIT has also recorded the statements of the other accused in the kidnap case, HD Revanna's PA Rajgopal. —IANS

BWSSB's move mitigates water woes in Varthur

Varthur gets water filling point, BWSSB installs 75k litre capacity water tank

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Residents of Varthur have been appreciating the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) authorities for supplying free drinking water on alternate days. The residents said the BWSSB's initiative has mitigated water woes to a great extent in and around Varthur.

Most of the borewells in Varthur and surrounding areas were dried up owing to deficit rainfall last year and summer heat, thus causing an acute shortage of water. This prompted the elected representatives and the BWSSB authorities to take the decision to have a water filling point for Varthur and its surrounding areas.

The BWSSB spent around Rs 12 lakh on installing a 75,000-litre capacity tank and a motor to draw water from the Cauvery water pipeline. The water tank is kept near Varthur Kodi. "I want to thank the BWSSB authorities for taking this initiative. It has helped to mitigate water woes in Varthur to some extent. It will be good if the BWSSB authorities provide one more water tank to supply sufficient quantities of water to the residents," said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

Commending the BWSSB for commencing the water supply to the residents, former corporator of Varthur ward, Pushpa Manjunath, said that she had a meeting with BWSSB employees before starting this initiative. "I advised the residents to keep two plastic drums outside their homes to facilitate water tankers engaged by the BWSSB to fill up those drums with water on alternate days. It helped those who go to work and could not afford to be at home to fetch drinking water from the BWSSB water tanker," she said.

The 75,000-litre water tank installed at Varthur draws water from Cauvery water pipeline

"Apart from supplying water, we have also made arrangements to send water tankers to the areas as soon as we receive phone calls from the residents –BWSSB engineer

Manjunath said the BWSSB kept a few Sintex water tanks at nearby villages, which come under 110 villages that were merged with the BBMP. "The BWSSB water tanker has been filling these Sintex tanks, and the residents have been fetching water from them," she said.

It is said the BWSSB has installed a 75,000-litre water tank for the first time in the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency. "The BWSSB has many water filling points in the city. We have been supplying drinking water to the residents of Varthur free of cost. Additionally, apart from supplying water on alternate days, we have also made arrangements to send water tankers to the areas as soon as we receive phone calls from the residents," said the BWSSB engineer.

Drought funds release: SC to hear plea in July

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will hear in July a plea filed by the Karnataka government seeking a direction to the Centre to release financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the state for drought management.

On April 29, the Centre told the apex court that around Rs 3,400 crore has been released to the Karnataka government for drought management in the state. The matter came up for hearing on Monday before a bench of Justices BR Gavai and Sandeep Mehta.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Karnataka government, said the state will file an affidavit in the matter. During the hearing last week, he told the bench that Rs 3,450 crore had been released, but the state's request was for assistance of Rs 18,000 crore.

The petition has sought to declare that the Centre's action in not releasing the financial assistance for drought arrangements according to the NDRF is "ex-facie violative" of the fundamental rights of the people of the state guaranteed under articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

It said the assistance sought from the Centre under the NDRF is Rs 18,171.44 crore. "Further, the impugned action of the Central Government is violative of the statutory scheme of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the manual for drought management, and the guidelines on the constitution and administration of the SDRF and NDRF," the plea said.

It said under the manual for drought management, the Centre is required to take a final decision on the assistance to the state from the NDRF within a month of the receipt of the inter-ministerial central team (IMCT). "Despite the IMCT report, the Centre has not taken a final decision on the assistance to the state from the NDRF even after a lapse of almost six months from the date of the said report," the plea said. –PTI

BM Trippin' Tales

E-pass required to travel to Ooty & Kodai from today

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With many Bengalureans heading to hill stations to escape the heat, the recent news of e-passes has created confusion among travellers. According to a Times of India report, the Nilgiris district administration launched a website on Sunday to generate e-passes for entry into the district. Tourists and commercial vehicles can register themselves on epass.tnega.org starting from Monday to enter the district, as stated by Nilgiris collector M Aruna.

The report stated that all tourist vehicles entering the Nilgiris district will require an e-pass from Tuesday to June 30. The Madras High Court has made an e-pass mandatory for non-residents of Ooty to enter the hill town, aiming to streamline visitor and vehicular movement during the summer vacation. The collector clarified that it was only a registration process and not a regulatory one. Hence, all those applying will be granted an e-pass, she said, adding that tourists and commercial vehicles can register on the website using their phone numbers. A QR code will be sent to their phones. Personnel will verify the authenticity of the pass at the entry points by scanning the QR code. Applicants should enter details including their phone number, name, address, and the number of days they plan to stay in the Nilgiris, as well as the type of vehicle.

File photo of the Karnataka Siri Horticulture Garden, Ooty

The overseas visitors will need to register on the website using their email ID. "The e-pass is for the vehicle they are travelling in. Each person travelling in the vehicle does not need to obtain the pass. There is no restriction on the number of tourists," said Aruna in the TOI report. People can also revisit the Nilgiris by obtaining fresh e-passes any number of times. There will be scope for malpractice only when there are restrictions. Since there are no restrictions, there will not be any malpractice, she said. However, residents of the Nilgiris district are not required to obtain e-passes when they travel downhill and return home. Similarly, those travelling by bus need not apply for e-passes.

"We will collect data from the TNSTC authorities on people travelling to the district using buses," she added. Visitors to Kodaikanal can also apply through the same portal to obtain e-passes. It may be noted that the Madras High Court had ordered an e-pass system for Ooty and Kodaikanal until June 30. Hence, an e-pass was mandated for non-residents in Ooty, Kodaikanal, and Nilgiris to regulate vehicle entry during summer.

Is the Chief Election Officer listening?

Delegation urges action against hate speech by BJP on social media, ads

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A delegation of concerned citizens and members of various civil society organisations met the Chief Election Officer, Karnataka, to file a complaint against Bharatiya Janata Party, Karnataka, on Monday. The complaint demanded action against BJP Karnataka for violation of Representation of People's Act 1951, Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and sections 153A, 505 (1)(c) and 505 (2) by spreading fake news and hate speech through their X handle and through newspaper advertisements.

"The video posted on the BJP Karnataka X handle clearly implies that the Muslim community is 'eating' all the funds at the cost of other communities, and that the Muslim community is pushing out other communities. The very manner in which the Muslim community is portrayed as being 'bad' is a shocking and blatant attack against the community. Similarly, the advertisement spreads fake news that Muslims are being given reservation on the basis of religion, when they are given reservations for being a member of a socially and educationally backward class as per Article 15(4) of the constitution," the delegation said in a statement.

It further stated that BJP Karnataka, in putting out the video and the advertisement had violated Section 123 (3A) of the Representation of People's Act, 1951 by seeking votes on the ground of religion. By attempting to promote hatred among the Muslim and SC/ST/OBC communities, their actions also attracted IPC sections 153(A)1(a), IPC 505(2).

Polling officials at the distribution centre, in Ballari on Monday

> **"An FIR has already been filed in the matter and the Commission was working with X to bring the video (posted by Karnataka BJP) down**
>
> –CEO, Karnataka

The video is in clear violation of the Model Code of Conduct for the Lok Sabha elections 2024 as contained in the Handbook for Candidates Edition 2023 issued by the Election Commission of India and the Compendium of Instructions on the Model Code of Conduct 2024.

The delegation urged the Chief Election Officer, Karnataka to exercise their authority under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution and immediately initiate the following measures: An FIR against BJP Karnataka Social Media in-charge; JP Nadda, BJP National President; Amit Malaviya, BJP National Social Media in-charge and BY Vijayendra, State President BJP Karnataka.

Direct that the BJP Karnataka X handle not be permitted to post for a minimum of 48 hours.

Direct the BJP Karnataka to immediately delete the post on their X handle.

Take strict action against BJP's star campaigner, Narendra Modi, and ban him from campaigning for 48 hours with respect to the newspaper advertisement.

Direct the BJP Karnataka to issue an apology forthwith with regard to the false claims made in the newspaper advertisement on Sunday.

Further, direct that the apology be of the same size as the advertisement.

It is important to note that the Election Commission has promptly initiated action against KC Rao, President of the Bharatha Rashtra Samiti and Congress leader Randeep Surjewala for similar violations. The delegation urged the Election Commission to be equally prompt and strict with the violations committed by the Karnataka BJP as well.

The CEO, Karnataka informed the delegation that an FIR has already been filed in the matter and the Commission was working with X to bring the video down. Representatives from Bahutva Karnataka, All India Lawyers Association for Justice (AILAJ), Campaign Against Hate Speech (CAHS), All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), Naaveddu Nilladiddare, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), were part of the delegation.

CM: This is '2nd freedom struggle'

Terming the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as the "second freedom struggle", Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday claimed that if the BJP gets 400 seats, the Constitution will be changed.

Addressing a joint press conference here with Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, he said that Dr BR Ambedkar's Constitution gives equal opportunity to all and the BJP is going against it.

"Ambedkar said that mere political freedom is not enough for a country. Everyone should get economic and social freedom. The Congress government has implemented guarantees to empower the weaker section," he said.

"We have fulfilled our promises in the past eight months after coming to power in the state, we have fulfilled five guarantees and the people have gained confidence," he said.

Siddaramaiah recalled that the BJP said that if the guarantees were implemented, the state would become financially bankrupt and the development works would stop.

"We were accused of providing guarantees only until the Lok Sabha elections and then stopping them. We have earmarked Rs 52,009 crore for guarantees in the budget. We have earmarked a total of Rs 1.20 lakh crores in 2024-25, including Rs 68,000 crore for development works. Our government's budget size is Rs 3.71 lakh crore, (former CM Basavaraj) Bommai's budget was Rs 3.09 lakh crore in 2023-24," he said. The Chief Minister charged the BJP with making false accusations "to make people lose confidence in Congress".

"The BJP is not in favour of guarantee schemes. Their conspiracy is to stop it. The prosperity of the poor, farmers, women, Dalits, and minorities is not important to them," he said.

"The caste census is very important to give justice to the underprivileged and to get them benefits from the government. This time, the people will trust Congress," he said, expressing confidence in winning more seats from the state. **–IANS**

Polling in 93 seats today: PM to vote in Gandhinagar

Voting will be held in 93 constituencies spread over 11 states and Union Territories on Tuesday in the third phase of Lok Sabha polls, with stakes being high for the BJP which had won an overwhelming majority of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Karnataka, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, in the last election.

Over 1,300 candidates, including around 120 women, are in the fray. Among the bigwigs are Union ministers Amit Shah (Gandhinagar), Jyotiraditya Scindia (Guna), Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar), Parshottam Rupala (Rajkot), Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad) and SP Singh Baghel (Agra).

With the BJP bagging Surat unopposed, 25 seats in Prime Minister Modi's home state of Gujarat will go to polls on May 7, besides 11 seats in Maharashtra, 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh, the remaining 14 of the 28 in Karnataka, seven in Chhattisgarh, five in Bihar, four each in Assam and West Bengal, and all two in Goa.

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (2 seats) and nine seats in Madhya Pradesh, including Betul where elections were deferred, will also go to polls on Tuesday and over 11 crore people will be eligible to vote.

PM Modi and Shah, who are expected to arrive in Gujarat tonight, will cast their vote at booths in Ahmedabad city under the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha seat.

Polling staff participate in the mustering process at a school in Dharwad, on Monday

Former Madhya Pradesh chief ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha) and Digvijaya Singh (Rajgarh) have also returned to the Lok Sabha electoral fray this time.

A riveting contest is on in Maharashtra's Baramati between Sharad Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule and Sunetra Pawar, wife of the veteran leader's estranged nephew and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

In Uttar Pradesh, the current phase is important for the Mulayam Singh Yadav family, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav aiming to retain the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat.

Dimple Yadav had won the seat in bypolls following the demise of her father-in-law Mulayam Singh Yadav. Akshaya Yadav, son of Ram Gopal Yadav, the national principal general secretary of SP, will try to reclaim the Firozabad seat, which he had won in 2014.

Aditya Yadav, the son of SP national general secretary Shivpal Yadav, is making his electoral debut from the Budaun Lok Sabha seat, which was represented by his cousin Dharmendra Yadav in 2014.

The fate of former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and AIUDF Badruddin Ajmal (Dhubri) will also be decided on May 7.

After the third phase, voting will be completed in 283 out of 543 seats in Lok Saba. The next four phases will be on May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1. Counting of votes is on June 4. **–PTI**

Gratings, regular cleaning of little help

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(SWDs). Consequently, SWDs are overflowing, leading to delays in search operations. A senior BBMP official stated, "The primary cause of drain blockages leading to flooding is the dumping of roadside garbage and construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Drains become clogged with waste, unable to accommodate rainwater."

The official said efforts to clear garbage and C&D waste from roads and drains, has not significantly improved the situation. "On newly developed roads, we have installed gratings to prevent waste from entering drains. However, even a small amount of dry waste can obstruct these gratings, resulting in water-logging on streets. Additionally, areas without gratings experience roadside garbage dumping, leading to waste entering drains and flowing into rajakaluve. Garbage is also directly dumped into rajakaluve at culverts, causing blockages and overwhelming trash barriers," the official said.

Floating waste impedes water flow of the lakes, causing rajakaluve overflow. The official said that despite daily cleaning, a substantial amount of trash accumulates at barriers. "C&D waste on road side exacerbates the issue as it gets washed into drains along with silt, blocking passage. Regular upkeep by pourakarmikas is essential to keep roads free of waste and debris, as neglecting this responsibility leads to flooding even after minor rainfall. Reckless dumping of debris continues on both sides of the road," he said.

Nath said, "The Meteorological Department has predicted that we can expect normal or more rainfall than in the last two years. In May, pre-monsoon showers occur in a short span of time, resulting in high-intensity rains. In previous years, we have witnessed rain damage such as flooded underpasses. Therefore, we have undertaken intensive cleaning efforts. Stormwater drains are being cleaned, but debris is obstructing the process. To address this, every third week of the month will be dedicated to intensive cleaning, and all officials have been instructed to participate. BESCOM and BWSSB have also initiated monsoon preparedness measures, resulting in their materials being on roads or footpaths. Consequently, we convened a meeting with these officials and instructed them to complete all works by the end of May. Roads and footpaths should be cleared to prevent debris from flowing into stormwater drains and obstructing water flow. At the sub-divisional level, we have established 63 WhatsApp groups of officials to monitor the work regularly. Control rooms are being set up, and officials will be assigned to three shifts. We have cleaned approximately 589 kilometers of Rajakaluves every three months. As of May 3, 75% of the work was completed, and we aim to finish by May 10. Strategic points have been identified, and an excavator machine will be stationed there to remove debris from Rajakaluves."

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CHANGE OF NAME

WE, M N VIJAY and SWAROOPA S N R/a No.637, 5th Main, near J E S Public School, NGEF Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560072 have changed out minor son name from SAMARTH SHETTY M.V TO ADVAIT MVN SHETTY and correct DOB is 02.12.2011, vide affidavit dated 02.05.2024 before notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

I, Sudhakirana R/a "Kinara Kuteera" no.23 & 24, 4th Main, 2nd Cross Freedom Fighters Layout, Near Mount Senoria School, Outer Ring Road, Laggere, Bangalore- 560058 have changed my name to Sudhakirana Adhikashreni vide affidavit dated 4.5.2024 sworn before Notary B Chitra Bangalore

I, M N VIJAY S/o Late. Narayana Shetty R/a No.637, 5th Main, near J E S Public School, NGEF Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560072 here by declare that M N VIJAY and VIJAY MN SHETTY both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 03.05.2024 before notary Devaraja E, B.lore.

WE, Mohammad Faizan Salman and Suha Amreen Mohammad Habeebi No. 6/1, SF-2, 2nd floor, Le-orchid apartment, Ware road, Frazer town, Bangalore - 560005 have changed my minor daughter's name from Arwa to Arwa Mohammad Faizan for all purposes

I Megha S W/o Aviansh Kumar A R/o #306 Maharaja palace 2nd Floor , 2nd Main Bus Stop Kodichinahalli B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Megha Mittal for all purposes

I, ASHUTOSH SHARMA S/o Rajeshwar Prasad R/o No. C306, Pridesunrise Apartment, Vatika Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Near Niagara Layout. Anekal, Jigni, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560105, India, changes my name from ASHUTOSH to ASHUTOSH SHARMA.

I, Narmada Keshetti, W/O Mahesh Keshetti, R/O 104, Sai Smruthi Apartment, Devaki Apparao Layout, Rammurthy Nagar, Bangalore - 560016, have changed my name to Narmada Thatipally for all practical purposes

I Lalitha Jain D/O, Parasmal Bagrecha R/o No 99/3, Flat 1101, 11th Floor, Platinum Ananda, Bull Temple Road, Basavangudi Bengaluru - 560019 Karnataka have changed my name to Lalita Jain.

I, Vasanth Kumar S, S/O Suviseshamuthu, R/o A-009, A Block, Ground Floor, Adithya Rica Apartment, Sorahunase Main Road, Varthur, Bangalore -560087 have changed my name to Vasanth Kumar.

I, UDAYA, residing at #8, 1st Main Road, Hanumaiah Layout, Sanjayanagar, Bengaluru 560094, have changed the name of my minor daughter from AADHYA UDAYA to AADHYA UDAY vide Affidavit Dated: 29/04/2024, sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

I Basave Gowda S/o Bannappa R/o 52/5, Channappa Building, Avalahalli, Bengaluru 560049 have changed my name to BASAVEGOWDA.B for all purposes.

I Santhosha G S R/o No 38, Gungurumale Gate, Papanaghatta Village, Karehalli Post, Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan, Karnataka-573131. Have Changed my name from Santhosha G S to G S Santhosh for all purposes.

I, Ganapati R/a "Kinara Kuteera" no.23 & 24, 4th Main, 2nd Cross Freedom Fighters Layout, Near Mount Senoria School, Outer Ring Road, Laggere, Bengaluru -560058 have changed my name to Ganapati Hebbar vide affidavit dated 4.5.2024 sworn before Notary B Chitra Bangalore

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ON EVE OF THE BEST CENT PERCENT RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 2023-24 IN RESPECT OF ICSE BOARD, THE DIRECTORS OF THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND THE PRINCIPAL HAVE HEARTILY CONGRATULATED ALL THE TEACHING STAFF FOR THEIR BEST EFFORTS.

SMILE PLEASE

Healthy teeth are wondrous and priceless – a dentist explains why and how best to protect them

At an auction in England in 2011, one of John Lennon's teeth sold for just over USD 31,000.

How much are your teeth worth?

Teeth are amazing little miracles. They light up our smiles, we use them to speak and we chew with them more than 600 times at every meal.

Yet, in a society where 1 out of 5 Americans ages 75 and up live without their teeth, many people may not realise that teeth are designed to stay with us for a lifetime.

I'm a dentist and an assistant professor spanning clinical dentistry and craniofacial regeneration research. Researchers like me are still deepening our understanding of tooth development, with the ultimate goal of serving patients with on-demand regrown ones.

In the process, I have developed reverence for natural teeth and for the complex beauty of these biological and mechanical masterpieces.

Designed for lifelong function

The secret of teeth longevity lies in their durability as well as in how they are anchored to the jaw – picture a hammer and its hand grip. For each tooth, durability and anchorage are functions of the complex interface between six different tissues; each alone is a biological marvel.

For anchorage, the cementum, ligament and bone grip the tooth at its root portion that is buried under the gum. The ligament, a soft tissue that is about 0.2 millimetres wide (about the diameter of four hairs), attaches the cementum of the root on one end to the bone of the jaw on the other end. It serves to anchor the tooth as well as to cushion its movement during chewing.

For durability, however, the secret lies in the enamel, dentin and pulp – our focus in this discussion.

Enamel – the shield

The enamel is the protective shell that covers the visible part of the tooth above the gum. Thanks to its high mineral content, enamel is the hardest tissue in the body. It needs to be, since it acts as a shield against the constant impact of chewing.

Enamel does not contain cells, blood vessels or nerves, so it is nonliving and nonsensitive. Enamel is also non-regenerating. Once destroyed by decay or broken by misuse such as ice chewing, nail biting or bottle opening – or touched by the dental drill – that part of our priceless enamel is gone for good.

Because it interfaces with a germ-laden world, the enamel is also where decay starts. When acid-generating bacteria accumulate on unbrushed or poorly brushed teeth, they readily dissolve the minerals in the enamel.

Like hair or fingernails, the non-innervated enamel is not sensitive. The decay advances through the 2.5-millimetre thick (tenth of an inch) layer of enamel painlessly.

When caught at that phase during a dental checkup visit, the dentist can treat the decay with a relatively conservative filling that hardly compromises the tooth's structural integrity.

Because of its high mineral content, enamel is stiff. Its lifelong support is provided by the more resilient infrastructure – the dentin.

Dentin and pulp – body and heart

With less mineral content than enamel, dentin is the resilient body of the tooth. It is a living tissue formed of parallel tiny tubes housing fluid and cellular extensions. Both originate from the pulp.

The pulp is the tooth's soft tissue core. Vastly rich in cells, blood vessels and nerves, it is the life source of the tooth – its heart – and the key to its longevity.

Like smoke detectors communicating with a remote fire station, the cellular extensions within the dentin sense decay as soon as it breaks through the nonsensitive layer of enamel into dentin. Once the extensions communicate the danger signal to the pulp, our tooth sensitivity alarm goes off: The tooth heart is in flames.

The inflamed pulp initiates two protective actions. The first is to secrete an additional layer of dentin to delay the approaching attack. The second is toothache, a call to visit the dentist.

The earlier the visit, the less the drilling and the smaller the filling. If caught in time, most of the tooth's natural tissues will be preserved and the pulp will likely regain its healthy state. If caught too late, the pulp slowly dies out.

Without its heart, a nonliving tooth has no defence against further decay invasion.

Without a hydration source, a dried-out dentin will sooner or later break under the forces of constant chewing. Besides, a tooth that has already lost a significant portion of its natural structure to decay, cavity preparation or root canal instrumentation becomes weak, with limited longevity.

In other words, the tooth is never the same without its heart. Pulpless, the tooth loses its womb-to-tomb endurance and mother nature's lifelong warranty.

The tooth coming together

More complex – and more precious – than a pearl within an oyster, the formation of a tooth within our jawbone involves layered mineral deposition. As tooth development progresses in a process of ultimate cellular engineering, the cells of the six aforementioned tissues – enamel, dentin, pulp, cementum, ligament and bone – multiply, specialise and mineralise synchronously with each other to form uniquely interlocking interfaces: enamel to dentin, dentin to pulp, cementum to dentin and cementum to ligament to bone.

In a progress akin to 3D printing, the tooth crown grows vertically to full formation. Simultaneously, the root continues its elongation to eventually launch off the crown from within the bone across the gum to appear in the mouth – the event known as teething. It is about that time, around 12 years of age, that our set of adult teeth is complete. These pearls are set to endure a lifetime and are undoubtedly worth preserving.

Save your teeth, visit the dentist

Tooth decay, the most prevalent disease in humans, is both predictable and preventable. The earlier it is caught, the more the tooth integrity can be preserved.

Since the process starts painlessly, it is imperative to visit the dentist regularly to keep those insidious germs in check.

During your checkup visit, the dental professional will clean your teeth and check for early decay. If you are diligent with your daily preventive measures, the good news for you will be no news – enough to make anyone smile.

(By Samer Zaky, University of Pittsburgh, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Sea moss

What Is Sea Moss
Sea moss is a specific type of algae or seaweed called Chondrus crispus, also known as Irish moss. It is a spiny, edible plant, and has some similarities to other edible seaweeds such as kombu, dulse, or wakame. It grows naturally in waters and tide pools along rocky coasts, such as coasts of the northern Atlantic Ocean.

Benefits Of Consuming Sea Moss
It's loaded with minerals such as iodine, potassium, calcium as well as vitamins and proteins.
Sea moss can be made into a drink by boiling it and adding warm milk and honey to it. Or you can buy readily available sea moss gel, mix it with water to make a puree which can be eaten as is or added to a smoothie.

Health Benefits
Since it's rich in iodine and amino acid, it helps support thyriod health. And since sea moss is also rich in dietary fibre, it helps with gut health too. It helps slow the speed of digestion which in turn helps maintain blood sugar levels. It also supposedly works wonders in helping the body recover from workouts.

Beauty Benefits
Sea moss is hydrating and moisturising. It contains high amounts of polysaccharides (called carrageenans), which act as a thickening agent that forms a protective yet non-occlusive film over the skin. The weed also has anti-inflammatory properties thanks to the high concentration of zinc and sulfur which makes it helpful for managing dry skin concerns. It also helps balance oil production.

— Ravina M Sachdev, Femina

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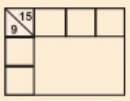
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

66-44÷22+33+55÷5-7!!! = ?

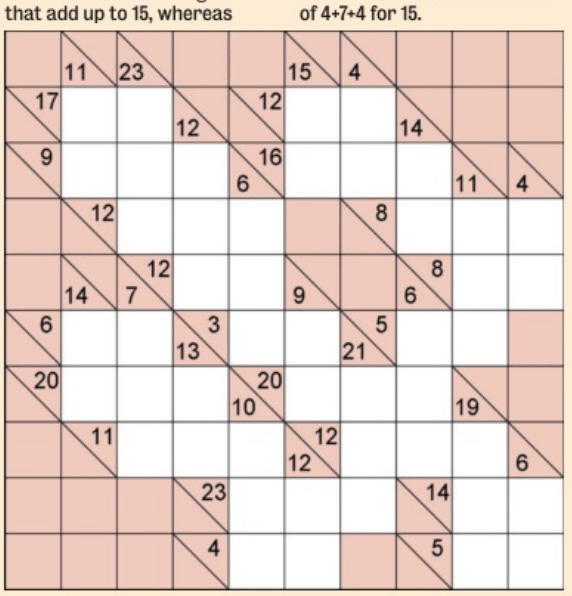
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

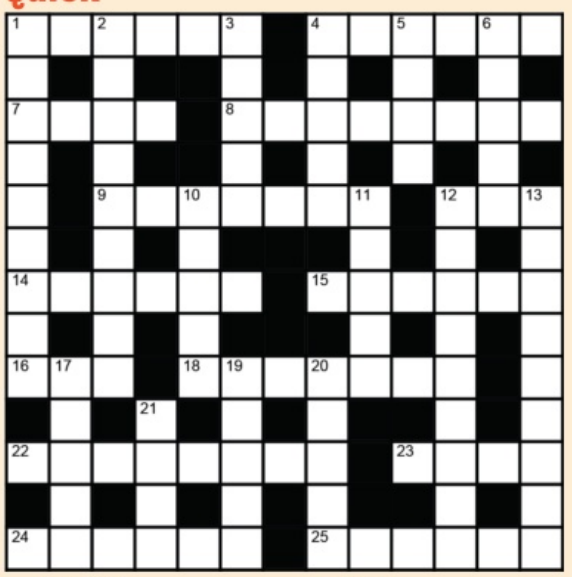


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Have __ __ __ : Be totally unafraid (2,4)
4 Long ditch (6)
7 Concerts (4)
8 Lack of sensation (8)
9 Fought or wrestled (7)
12 Song and dance (3)
14 Lubricating (6)
15 Victor or master? (3,3)
16 Recede (3)
18 Diabolic (7)
22 Went up (8)
23 Excavations (4)
24 Crafty or sly (6)
25 Wrote, put down on paper? (6)

DOWN

1 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
2 Fincher & Palahniuk's classic (5,4)
3 The ____: common soldiers? (5)
4 Valley near Mt Olympus (5)
5 Many millennia (4)
6 Reconnoitred (5)
10 Transmits (5)
11 Die under water (5)
12 Kidnapping (9)
13 Effectively structured (9)
17 Luxuriates as in, "_____ in the reflected glory of..."? (5)
19 Muddle (5)
20 Make sense (3,2)
21 S. American country (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS G

KPBLAKR DXDT SDMPWDI TDHQ BAQQ AB AI DEFDTADKMDN.

Linemaro

You are as pretty as 100 pink flamingoes in a golf course

Mindchow

If you let go of the past, it no longer has a hold on you

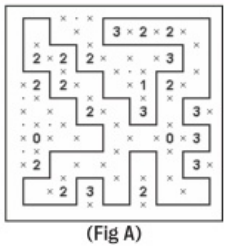
Joke of the day

Racehorse: A fast means of redistributing wealth

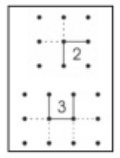
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



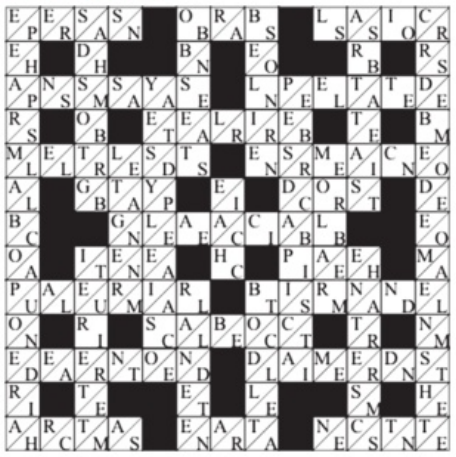
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

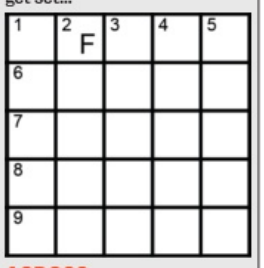
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

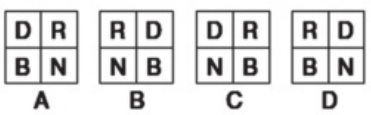
1 Fater; 6 Ler me;
7 Debar; 8 Me den;
9 Dr Sin

DOWN

1 Bream; 2 Me fir;
3 Terne; 4 A lend;
5 Dr Des

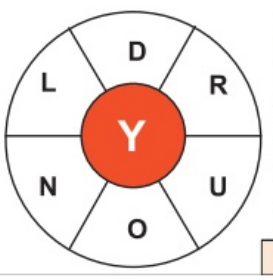
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?



A B C D

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

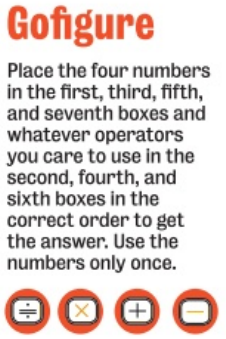
SudokuChallenge

		8				7		
3	7						1	2
6			2		8			4
	6	5	4		3	1	8	
	3	7	1		5	6	4	
7			6		4			8
8	1						7	6
		6				2		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 28
4 7 8 9

Medium = 45
2 5 5 7

Hard = 11
4 5 7 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

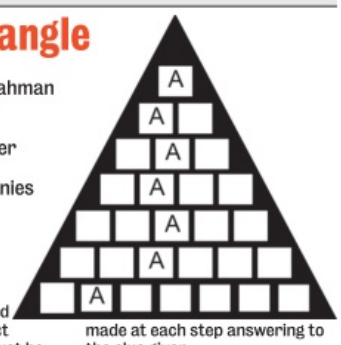
Differences: 1. Stripe on hockey stick is different. 2. Skate blade is different. 3. Gap is different. 4. Snow around bottom of tree is different. 5. Cloud is different. 6. Stick is longer.

Riddler

I race in a circle, Always to the right. From Zero to Sixty, In the blink of an eye. I rarely stop, Save for a wind or a juice. Reliable I am, Reliant are you.

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Music director Rahman
3 It paves the way
4 Wagon
5 Copy on thin paper
6 A red wine
7 Groups of companies

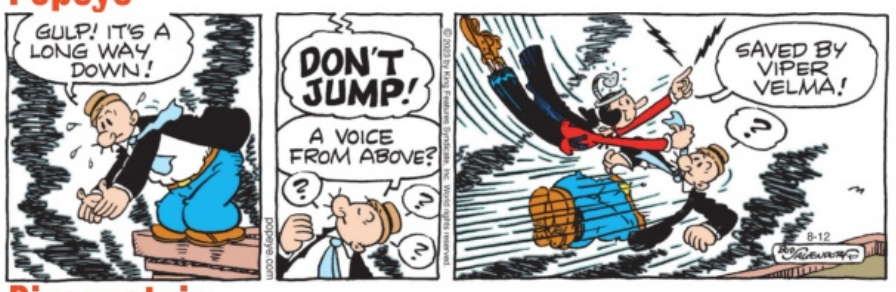


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

LIL, HAVE YOU SEEN THAT NEW DOLL?!
IT'S CALLED "BAMBI McFEENY AND HER BUBBLE WRAP BIKINI"!
WHAT'S IT DO?
YOU PULL HER STRING AND SHE POPS HER TOP!

Hart of the city

YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD TEACHER, CHARLOTTE.
"TEACHER CHARLOTTE." THAT HAS A NICE RING TO IT.
SO DO "PROFESSOR CHARLOTTE" AND "DOCTOR CHARLOTTE"!

Crankshaft

TO KICK OFF OUR HEAVY METAL MARATHON... HERE THEY ARE, HOT OFF A SUPERIOR RATING AT THE STATE BAND CONTEST...
A HEAVY METAL MARATHON... REALLY?
WELL, WE WERE ALL BRASS!
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

EARL! WAKE UP!!!
I WAS DREAMING WE WERE HIBERNATING AND THEN I SAID — "EARL! WAKE UP!" AND THEN YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME REAL MAD!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!?!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will give you some confidence. Your focus on your goals is now clear, so you may achieve them. Your creativity might improve, and you will take an interest in artefacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents may be under control now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are likely to help others, including the needy people around you. It will increase your reputation and social respect. New ideas may come into your mind. You might implement the innovation into the work, which may increase your business. Lovebirds may plan an outing or an adventure tour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be dissatisfied; you have some sort of detachment from your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also be taking care of your parents. If you're planning to migrate somewhere, it is advised to postpone it for a few days.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a positive day for you; you may get success from your hard work on the professional and domestic front. You may have good focus, and you may complete your work on time, which can improve your self-confidence. You may also expect some work-related short trips, which may be beneficial in the near future in terms of your network.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money on buying artefacts or household items. You are advised to control spending on worthless stuff; otherwise, it may attract negative energy into the house. You are also advised to control your harsh language with the people around you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel comfortable after a messy situation. Your vitality may help you implement some difficult decisions in your parental business, which may grow your business. You may help needy people around you, which may increase your social respect. Students might be clear in choosing their career options.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull, and your health may not be good. You may also have anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone your important investments in business or real estate. You are advised to avoid rush-hour driving. You should avoid long-distance travel as well. You may do some meditation; it will be helpful for sound sleep.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, blessings from elders' may make you happy, and your investments may give you profits. Your savings may boost your bank balance. Losses are now converted into profits. You may plan to invest in your kid's future as well. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Problems related to the throat, teeth, ear, or nose may be resolved now.

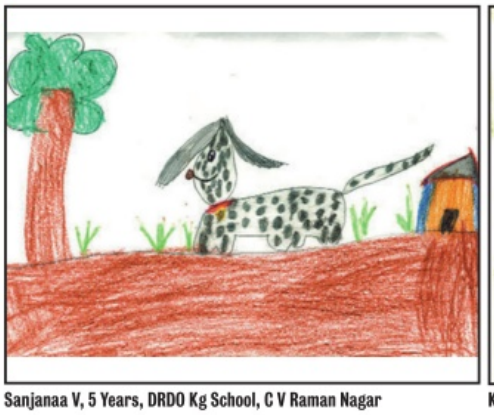
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by elders and are likely to spend time with them. You may become very patient, and your focus on your work may be very good. Parent's health has now improved. You may also meet some influential people who may help you on a professional front. You may also enjoy your romantic moments, which may increase harmony in domestic life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be spiritual, and you may help needy people around you. You may also plan to donate some amount to a charity or religious place. Your good karma may help you achieve success in your difficult projects. You may feel that some divine power around you may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted to the occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying in depth.

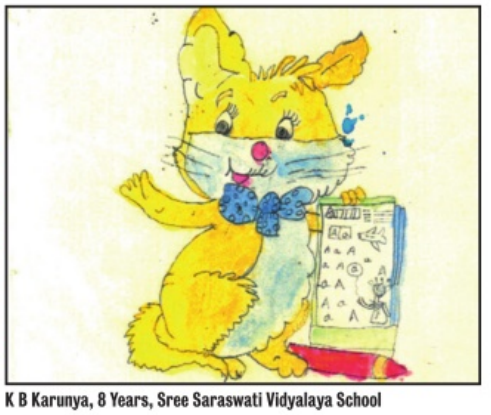
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull; you may be a victim of hidden fear, which may make you scared. You are not in a situation to trust anyone. It is advised to do meditation and chant some prayers, which may help you come out of this hypothetical situation. With the help of the elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out of this messy situation.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy at work, your network may be increased, and with its help, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovating in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Natives related to films, glamour, household stuff, and interiors will do better.

KIDZONE



Sanjanaa V, 5 Years, DRDO Kg School, C V Raman Nagar



K B Karunya, 8 Years, Sree Saraswati Vidyalaya School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
66-2+33+11-7+1 = 64+44-2 8=
108-28 = 80

BULL'S EYE
dourly, duly, only, ROUNDLY, your

STRIKE OUT

P	E	A	N		O	R	B		L	A	I	C		
	H		D		N		E		B		R			
A	S	S	A	Y	S		L	P	L	A	T	E		
	A		S		S		A		E		T		M	
R	O		E	E	R	I	E		T		M			
M	E	R	E	S	T		E	R	M	I	N	E		
	A	B	A	P		I	C	O	S		D			
C		G	L	A	C	I	A	L			E			
O		T	E	E		C		P	A	H		M		
P	L	U	R	A	L		T	I	R	A	D	E		
O		R		S	A	B	O	T		R		N		
E	A	R	N	E	D		L	A	M	E	N	T		
	R		C		E									
A	S	C	E	N	D	E	D		P	I	L	T	S	

FAST FIVE

A	F	T	E	R
B	R	E	A	D
M	E	R	L	E
E	M	E	N	D
R	I	N	D	S

RIDDLER
A second hand on a watch.

QUICK

N	O	F	E	A	R		T	R	E	N	C	H		
	I			L			E		O			A		
A	G	I	S		N	U	M	B	E	N	E	S	S	
	H		K		P		S		E					
R		T	U	S	S	L	E	D		A	D	O		
	C		E		R		B		R					
H		G	L	A	C	I	A	L			E			
	I		N	G		T	O	P	D	O	G			
O	I	L				D				W		A		
L		D				S	A	T	A	N	I	C		
E	B	B		S								N		
	A		P		D		D			T		I		
A	S	C	E	N	D	E	D		P	I	L	T	S	

SUDOKU

5	4	6	8	3	7	2	9	1
8	1	3	9	5	2	4	7	6
7	9	2	6	1	4	3	5	8
2	3	7	1	8	5	6	4	9
1	8	4	7	6	9	5	2	3
9	6	5	4	2	3	1	8	7
6	5	1	2	7	8	9	3	4
3	7	9	5	4	6	8	1	2
4	2	8	3	9	1	7	6	5

MENSA PUZZLE
D: start at the bottom left-hand corner square, then work up the first column, and back down the second etc, repeating the letters BNDKLFAGR.

QUOTE UNCODE
Nothing ever becomes real till it is experienced.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, AR, Tar, Cart, Trace, Claret, Cartels.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 7 + 9 + 4 = 28
Medium
2 x 7 – 5 x 5 = 45
Hard
5 – 5 + 7 + 4 = 11

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Cannes film fest workers to strike
Workers at the Cannes Film Festival called for a strike over pay and conditions on Monday, just a week before the event was due to start

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Poster boy

The poster of Dinu Savkaar of the movie Kotee was released. Ramesh Indira plays the antagonist Dinu Savkaar in the movie while Daali Dhananjay plays the lead. Ramesh Indira earned name for his sterling performance in Sapta Sagaradaache Ello.

The poster of Dinu Savkaar has created a lot of buzz among moviegoers. With his piercing look filled with malice, grey hair and beard, decorated with a platinum chain around his neck and a cigarette clenched between his lips, Dinu Savkaar exudes an impression of menace and intrigue.

Param, the writer and director of 'Kotee,' recently shared his thoughts on social media, delving into his fascination with antagonists in storytelling. Param clearly expressed that Mahabharata is not complete without Suyodhana, nor is there a Ramayana without Raavana.

"These characters delve into our deepest desires, offering insight into the complexity of human nature. Despite our aversion to antagonists, there exists an undeniable attraction," he said.

The movie is scheduled for release on June 14.

Audio rights sold

Lahari Audio Company has bought the audio rights of Kannada movie Adhipatra recently for a considerable amount. Bigg Boss fame Rupesh Shetty is playing the lead in the movie. Its teaser is scheduled for release on May 10.

The shooting of the talkie portion and songs is completed and the team of the movie is busy with the post production work.

The shooting and making of 'Adhipatra' has caught everyone's attention. Chayan Shetty, known for creative ads in the advertisement film industry, debuts in Sandalwood with this movie. "Adhipatra is about the unique culture of Mangalore and surrounding areas. It is a suspense thriller. I am very happy with the feedback from the actors after watching the movie while attending dubbing. I am also happy with their cooperation and hard work during the shooting," said director Chayan Shetty.

The director said that Rupesh Shetty plays a cop in the movie. "The movie is inspired by real incidents and its shooting was held in Mangaluru and Udupi. We want to release this movie by next month," he said.

MEMORIES OF A GALA TIME

As Alia is set to attend Met Gala, we take a look at her big fear last time around

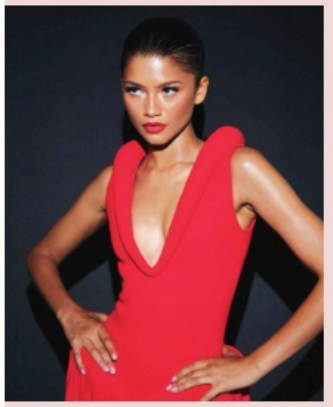
Alia Bhatt is set to attend the Met Gala for the second time this year. The actress' appearance at the grand event last year is still remembered as she walked the red carpet in a pristine white gown embedded with pearls. Alia surely gave all the princess vibe with this look in a Prabal Gurung outfit.

Alia was quite nervous before walking the red carpet and in an interview post Met Gala, Alia had revealed the one thing she was praying would not happen. time to pose, take a breath and enjoy the moment," said Alia in a chat with News18.

While Alia was nervous, she didn't allow the pressure to get into her head. She added, "It's not about giving yourself too much pressure and taking it seriously. It's a massive and big deal but it was also about having fun and light on the inside, so that your face looks lit up and happy. That's something I was focusing on. Having said that, I really had a lovely time."

Fans are now waiting to see what the actress wears at the Met Gala this year. The theme of Met Gala 2024 is 'Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion'.

On the work front, Alia has completed shooting for 'Jigra' which she has also co-produced. The film will be released in September 2024. The actress will be shooting next for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love And War' with Ranbir Kapoor. **—ETimes**



Laugh it off

Zendaya has recently found herself at the centre of a viral meme linking female leads from the 'Spider-Man' franchise to roles as tennis players.

The meme humorously highlights Zendaya, alongside Kirsten Dunst and Emma Stone, transitioning from their roles in superhero films to portray tennis stars on screen.

According to CNN, Zendaya recently appeared for an interview to discuss her latest film 'Challengers,' along with co-stars Josh O'Connor and Mike Faist.

When asked about the meme and the trend of female leads moving from 'Spidey love to tennis love,' Zendaya responded with a touch of amusement, stating, "Maybe it's some prophecy I need to fulfil. It's quite funny, isn't that?"

Zendaya, who plays a champion tennis player turned coach in 'Challengers,' reflected on the peculiar connection between the 'Spider-Man' franchise and tennis roles. Despite the light-hearted nature of the meme, Zendaya acknowledged the coincidence, remarking, "I guess it worked out for all of them." As per CNN, the meme references Kirsten Dunst, who portrayed Mary Jane Watson in the early 2000s Spider-Man trilogy before starring in the tennis-themed film 'Wimbledon.'

Emma Stone, another 'Spider-Man' alum, took on the role of Gwen Stacy before transitioning to portray real-life tennis pro-Billie Jean King in 'Battle of the Sexes.' **—ANI**

Best of both worlds

Aditi Rao Hydari has worked with numerous maestros, including Mani Ratnam and Sanjay Leela Bhansali, wherein she has portrayed roles reflecting her versatility. In Bhansali's 'Heeramandi', she portrays Bibbo Jaan, a character with aspirations extending beyond the walls of Heeramandi. Aditi recently shared her thoughts on her perception of being delicate.

Talking to IndiaToday.in, Aditi said that she is perceived in a particular way because of the way she looks, the way she is, or the parts she has played, usually as a fragile, feminine, or petite girl. Often, people say, 'Oh, she will just blow away.' Or, 'Oh, she is like glass; if you touch her, she will break.' The actor further said that today she owns it, and she is what she is. It is not a burden for her, but if it is for people, then people need to figure it out. She revealed that her vulnerability is her strength.

Aditi added she also feels it is about directors who bring that out in an actor.

To have a vision and say that there are different kinds of strengths. She is happy that she lived this life of Bibbo Jaan because it was like 'here is a girl who is so kind, so feminine, and artistic.' She feels that fearless belief is so inspiring, and they are not mutually exclusive. **ETimes**

Say it with a tiara

Actress Janhvi Kapoor, who has recently started shooting for her upcoming film 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari' on Monday dropped mesmerising glimpses of her new photoshoot, looking like a goddess.

Taking to Instagram, Janhvi, who has 24.1 million followers, shared a string of pictures wearing a golden outfit posing against a golden backdrop.

For the makeup, she went all glam -- brown glossy lips, with a hint of golden glitters on it, golden eyeshadow and heavily blushed cheeks.

Her hair is styled in soft curls and accessorised the look with a golden tiara and matching earrings.

The post is captioned: "In the garden of Eden". A fan commented: "Beauty on duty", and another wrote: "queen". A fan said: "My kinda golden hour".

Meanwhile, in 'Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari', Janhvi is reuniting with Varun Dhawan after their last outing 'Bawaal'. **—IANS**